



**TENTH
CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT**



Congressman Kirk with Abbott Middle School

REPRESENTATIVE MARK KIRK'S

Letters Home

Spring 2002



DEAR FRIENDS,

Things are looking up, both in America's war on terror in Afghanistan and in the economy here at home. Following the press of wartime legislation, Congress is turning back to key domestic priorities: modernizing Medicare with a prescription drug program, reforming education and fighting traffic gridlock. **I believe our children have a right to safe, drug-free schools.** I will be paying particular attention to ways we can reduce gun violence and stop the spread of "club drugs" in our schools.

My first year as your representative has been one of the most dramatic in our country's history. We have made good progress toward protecting our homeland, securing air travel and prosecuting the war on terror. We can refocus on economic development, excellence in education and environmental protection.

I have scheduled a number of town hall meetings to hear from you. We included the results of our first survey, plus questions for a new survey. I appreciate hearing from you.

It is an honor to work for you in Congress.

DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS TOWN HALL MEETING

Saturday, May 18, 2002
2-4 p.m.

Glenbrook South
High School

4000 W. Lake Avenue
(Lake Avenue [Euclid]
at Pfingston)

Glenview

Kirk An "Emerging Leader:" Congressional Quarterly

The leading congressional magazine wrote that Congressman Kirk's experience gave him "an unusually high degree of credibility among his colleagues." Naming Kirk as one of "28 emerging leaders in Congress," he joined only one other freshman on the list. As a member of the Armed Services Committee, Kirk focused on providing men and women in uniform with everything they need on Afghanistan's front lines.

Reservists in the House

The following House members are in the armed forces reserves:

Member	Reserve Branch	Member	Reserve Branch
Steve Buyer, Ind.	Army Reserve	Mark Steven Kirk, Ill.	Naval Reserve
Lindsey Graham, S.C.	Air Force Reserve	John Shimkus, Ill.	Army Reserve
Van Hilleary, Tenn.	Air Force Reserve	Roger Wicker, Miss.	Air Force Reserve

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

June 1: More Illinois Seniors Eligible For Prescription Drugs

Thanks to a decision by President Bush, Illinois seniors will be first in the nation to receive federal help with the high cost of prescription drugs. Building on the state's "Circuit Breaker" program, the federal government will provide \$100 million for an expanded "SeniorRx" program. This program will cover prescription drug costs for eligible low-income seniors. For additional information call (847) 940-0202.

This summer, the House will vote on a Medicare modernization plan to provide prescription drug coverage for middle-income seniors. **"The prescription drug bill for someone fighting cancer can total \$30,000 in one year," said Congressman Kirk. "That is why I will vote for a program that updates Medicare to cover the high cost of prescription drugs."** Kirk also voted for a Patient's Bill of Rights that passed the House. The legislation guarantees access to specialists and second opinions. It is now pending in conference between House and Senate leaders.

Winter Survey Results BY THE NUMBERS

Responses to the question, "What is most important to you?" ranked in order of importance:

21%
Social Security

13.5%
Environmental Protection

11.9%
Boosting Medical Research

15.7%
Education

12.8%
Reducing Illegal Narcotics

9%
Fighting Traffic Gridlock

15.5%
Modernizing Medicare

Number of responses: 759

Zip Codes with most responses: 60004 & 60062 (Arlington Heights & Northbrook)

Excellence In Education And Drug-Free Schools

The "No Child Left Behind" education reform bill is now law. It provides additional funding for public schools in exchange for accountability to parents on the progress of their children. **"This bill will make the biggest difference for families in Wheeling, Waukegan and North Chicago where we must do more to improve test scores," said Congressman Kirk.**



Congressman Kirk discussed early education programs included in the "No Child Left Behind" law.

Congress is now turning to boosting support for special education kids. "Given the high cost of special education, federal aid will take the heat off every school district in our community," Kirk said. As a member of the House Budget Committee, Kirk led efforts to fully-fund the federal commitment to special education.

"We formed an advisory group of high school junior class presidents," reports Kirk. "We learned a lot about the growing menace of 'club drugs' in schools." The Student Leadership Advisory Board reviewed ads aired by the 'Partnership for a Drug-Free America' at their April meeting. "The federal government has committed almost \$1 billion to make teens aware of dangerous drugs. I am looking forward to publishing results of our 10th District teens' survey on which ads work," Congressman Kirk concluded.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

District Office

102 Wilmot Road, Suite 200
Deerfield, IL 60015
(847) 940-0202
(847) 940-7193 fax

Waukegan Office

301 Washington Street
Waukegan, IL 60085
(847) 662-0101
(847) 662-7519 fax

Washington, D.C

1531 Longworth
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4835
(202) 225-0837 fax

e-mail: rep.kirk@mail.house.gov
www.house.gov/kirk



Help for Veterans:

Congressman Kirk (left) was joined by Secretary of the Navy, Gordon England (center) and Deputy Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, Dr. Leo S. MacKay, Jr. (right) for the signing of a historic agreement between VA and the Navy. The agreement will expand the base and improve care for veterans.

IN THE NEWS

The NewsSun

Kirk projects nuclear-free county within decade

Lake County may be nuclear-free by 2011 if President Bush's proposal to store radioactive waste is Yucca Mountain, Nev., moves forward, U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, Highland Park, said Tuesday. "If it [the Yucca proposal] goes forward, we can have a vision around 2011 of a nuclear-free Lake County," Kirk said.

January 12, 2002

Lakeland News

Congressman Mark Kirk – An impressive first term

...Mark Kirk was more aggressive in tactfully raising such local issues as the threatened closing of the VA Medical Center, federal impact aid to schools near military bases, lakefront development, and other local concerns. After just over a year in office, Kirk has distinguished himself on many fronts, including policies to combat terrorism, raising funds for special education, supporting military personnel, veterans, and defense spending, and providing grants for education. He has been in the forefront to keep the VA Hospital open. That issue alone has won him the respect and support from area veterans and has impacted in a positive way the local economy.

*Seeing It Through – John S. Matijevich
March 15, 2002*

Daily Herald

Kirk takes steps to combat growing use of club drugs

When U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk met with a group of area high school students several months ago to discuss youth-related issues, he expected college finances to top the list. Instead, the conversation turned to concerns about the growing club drug use among classmates. The revelation has the Highland Park Republican focusing some of his energy on creating a Lake County club drug task force of experts and students, in an effort to combat the problem.

January 17, 2002

The NewsSun

Kirk at ceremony for HUD youth program in North Chicago

U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, Highland Park, and Roy Bernardi, assistant secretary of Housing and Urban Development, on Friday toured two sites here that use HUD funds to help at-risk youth and revitalize low- and moderate-income housing.

March 9-10, 2002

Daily Herald

Fast Nike site funding pleases Kirk

Navy's \$3.5 million for cleanup ensures plans will stay on track

When U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk approached Navy officials late last month about funding contamination cleanup at the former Nike missile site in Vernon Hills, he expected the request would become mired in a snarl of red tape. Much to his surprise, U.S. Navy Secretary Gordon England sent back a positive answer in a speedy two weeks time.

January 11, 2002

Chicago Tribune

FOUNDED June 10, 1847

Head Start received a jump start Local branch gets \$2.6 million grant from U.S.

The federal government has awarded \$2.6 million to Lake County's Head Start preschool program for children from low-income families, but program officials said Tuesday that the weak economy could create even more need. "I think the data is clear from the academic research," Kirk said during a tour of a Waukegan Head Start facility. [Kirk, who helped get the grant for the Lake County program, went on to say] "A dollar spent on Head Start is probably the best dollar the federal government can spend in federal education."

November 28, 2001

Survey questions

As your Congressman, I am interested in learning which three issues are personally most important to you. (Please number your choices 1, 2 and 3 in order of preference.)

- ___ Creating jobs/improving economy
- ___ Lowering taxes
- ___ Reducing wasteful government spending
- ___ Protecting Social Security/Medicare
- ___ Improving education
- ___ Protecting the environment
- ___ Fighting crime and drugs
- ___ Reducing traffic gridlock
- ___ Honesty/integrity in government
- ___ National defense/terrorism

Please Write "A" if you approve or "D" if you disapprove of each of the following:

Approve (A) / Disapprove (D)

- ___ Registering firearms, much like cars are registered.
- ___ Transporting nuclear waste from the Zion reactor to a safe nuclear deposit site outside Illinois.
- ___ Spending \$300 billion a year to cover the cost of prescription drugs for senior citizens and Medicare beneficiaries.
- ___ Allowing oil drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Please clip and mail to:
Congressman Mark Kirk
102 Wilmot Road, Suite 200
Deerfield, IL 60015

KIDS CORNER

20th Annual Congressional High School Art Competition

Each year local high school artists compete for an opportunity to represent our district in the nation's capital. The grand prize winner of our congressional art contest will travel to Washington, D.C., with their work of art which will adorn the Cannon Tunnel, in the U.S. Capitol. In addition, three runner-up selections will hang in my personal offices in Deerfield, Waukegan and Washington, D.C. We will begin accepting submissions on May 6 and will announce the grand prize winner during a presentation on May 28. Please contact your high school art teacher for details on how to participate in this unique art competition.

Congressman Mark Kirk, shown here with young parade watchers, participated in Olympic Torch ceremonies as the Olympic flame passed through Winnetka, Hubbard Woods and Highland Park this January on its way to the Winter Games.



Congressman Kirk welcomed National Youth Leadership Council and Presidential Classroom students to his Capitol Hill office. Joining the congressman (left to right) Gabe Newcomer (Northbrook), Robyn Epstein (Wilmette), Elizabeth Shay (Wilmette), Elliot Dunn (Winnetka) and Jason Kaplan (Northbrook).



UPCOMING TOWN HALL MEETINGS



Focus on: Transportation

Sunday, June 23

2-4 p.m.

Central School, Glencoe

Focus on: Health Care

Saturday, July 27

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Vernon Hills High School, Vernon Hills



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Official Business

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Kirk".

M.C.
Presorted Standard
ECRWSS

Congressman Mark Steven Kirk

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(847) 940-0202

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10th Congressional District
Illinois